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ABSTRACT

This report summarizes a study of the systems of mass communication in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) that concentrated on the ideological and political bases of mass media as they developed after the Second World War. Topics discussed include (1) the history of journalism in the GDR, (2) the roles of the various media in that country, (3) media licensing, (4) the management of the press, (5) factory and enterprise newspapers, (6) management of sound broadcasting, (7) radio services and programs, (8) the achievements of GDR television, (9) dramatic art in television, (10) the state-run news agency ("Allgemeiner Deutscher Nachrichtendienst"), (11) journalism in the system of mass communication, (12) the content of newspapers and media programs, (13) general principles of journalism in the GDR, (14) journalism and legal relations, and (15) publishing houses, printing shops, marketing, studios, and broadcasting technology. (HOD)

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HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF MEDIA SYSTEMS

II. GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Communication and Society 2

Summary of a study
made by:

Emil Dusiska

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PREFACE

This is a summary version of the study: "Systems of Mass Communication in the German Democratic Republic".

Two studies were originally commissioned by Unesco on the Historical Development of Media Systems, their Functions and Institutional Structures. One of them, with the Section of Journalism of the Karl Marx University, Leipzig, which was written by Professor Emil Dusiska. The present text is based on his study.

The other study was contracted with the Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association.

The two studies represent an interesting contrast, in content and presentation. Even though the guidelines for both of them were basically the same, the results differ considerably. The study on the mass communication systems in the German Democratic Republic to a large extent concentrates on the ideological and political bases of mass media as they developed after the Second World War. In contrast, the Japanese study provides an insight into indigenous media forms and the introduction of modern media which are then followed through the war and occupation up to the present day.

It is with a sense of satisfaction that we are able to include summaries of these two interesting studies in the present series of Communication and Society.

The study is not an official document of the country it refers to. The views stated therein are the author's and do not necessarily represent the official views of the German Democratic Republic or those of Unesco.

CONTENTS

		page
Introduction		1
I.	On the history of journalism in the GDR	3
II.	The press system in the GDR	10
III.	The radio in the GDR	15
IV.	Television	19
V.	"Allgemeiner Deutscher Nachrichtendienst"	22
VI.	Journalism in the system of mass communication	24
VII.	On the content of newspapers and programmes	28
VIII.	General principles of journalism	30
IX.	Journalism and legal relations	32
X.	Publishing houses, printing shops, marketing, studios and broadcasting technology	33

Introduction

The system of communication and the communication policies of a society, and the contents of social communication, are determined by the political, economic, social and cultural conditions as well as by their own genesis and development. In order to describe the historical development of media systems (press, radio and television) their functions and institutional structures, in the German Democratic Republic, it is necessary to provide, however briefly, some fundamental facts about the political structure, its economic basis, the social forces and their relationships, about culture, its sources, traditions and development in the first socialist state on German soil. In a socialist country mass communications are much more varied, their contents are much broader and more profound and their flows more intense than in other social systems. In addition, the mutual relations of the journalistic systems to all other spheres of social communication are of a different character and have attained highly developed standards. The Constitution makes it clear: "The German Democratic Republic is a socialist state of the workers and peasants. It is the political organization of the working people in the towns and in the country which is led by the working class and its Marxist-Leninist party". (Article 1, section 1, of the constitution of the German Democratic Republic).

The multi-party system in the GDR is an expression of the existence of various classes and strata. The strongest-political force is the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. It has 2.07 million members and candidates who work in a total of 74,574 basic units and departmental party cells in industrial enterprises, agricultural production cooperatives, schools and universities as well as in state and social institutions. 55.9 per cent of the members and candidates of the SUP are workers, and 74.5 per cent of all the members and candidates come from the working class.

The members of the Farmers' Democratic Party of Germany either belong to the calss of cooperative farmers or are people working in agriculture, forestry and the food-stuffs economy.

The Liberal Democratic Party of Germany and the National Democratic

Party of Germany are primarily made up of people engaged in commerce and trade, but it also contains representatives of the intelligentsia as well as cultural workers and artists.

The constitution of the GDR states "The firm alliance of the working class of the cooperative farmers, the members of the intelligentsia and the other strata of the people, the socialist ownership of the means of production, management and planning of social development in accordance with the most advanced insights gained by science form the inviolable foundations of the socialist order" (Article 2, sec. 2 of the GDR constitution).

At present, the population of the GDR is approximately 17 million people who live in 7,634 cities, towns and communities. Fifteen cities have more than 100,000 inhabitants. There are 15 regions with 191 rural and 28 town districts. The working population totals about 8.1 million.

The economic power of the state results from several factors which are of major relevance to mass communication, as will be seen later.

These factors are:

- the creative work of the working people, who are free from exploitation; their initiative and democratic cooperation in all fields of the national economy;
- the socialist planned economy, whose requirements are being mastered better and better and which is based on the socialist ownership of the means of production;
- the economic and social policy of the state which takes into account the interests of all the people, and both observes and utilises the economic laws of socialism and is aimed at organically linking the achievements of the scientific and technical revolution with the advantages of socialism. It is inspired and drawn up by the Marxist-Leninist party of the working class;
- the close planned and long-term economic as well as scientific and technical cooperation with the USSR and the other countries of the Council of Mutual and Economic Aid.

I. ON THE HISTORY OF JOURNALISM IN THE GDR

This study can give only a sketchy outline of the historical development of the individual mass media. That history is embedded in the historical process of the post-war period and in the foundation of the GDR, as well as in the years of its development into its present political, economic and social shape. Therefore, we can deal here with only the most outstanding events that made a major impact on the functions, structures and contents of the individual mass media.

It should always be kept in mind that the press and radio - and later television - were not mere chroniclers of the profound political, economic, social, intellectual and cultural changes. Above all, they were - and continue to be - tools used by the social forces owning and supporting them. They actively participated in the struggles for those profound changes and against their opponents by explaining, by journalistic means, the broad masses of the people the historical laws and concrete outward forms of the ongoing processes. They used information and argument to organize their participation in these vital struggles. In other words, they contributed in their own way to the formation of ideology. The concept of 'ideology' denotes a system of social (political, economic, legal, educational, artistic, moral, philosophical and other) views, concepts and opinions that express specific class interests and comprise corresponding patterns of behaviour, attitudes and evaluations.

After the Second World War the territory that is now the GDR was occupied by the USSR. Order No. 2 issued by the Soviet Military Administration in Germany on June 10th, 1945, permitted anti-fascist and democratic parties and free trade unions to operate. They were given the right to issue publications of their own (daily and weekly papers, as well as journals of different periodicity) after obtaining licenses from the Soviet occupational authorities.

As will be seen, this order was not primarily a juridical question but, in principle, a political decision. It layed down both the democratic legitimacy and the field of authority of the publishers in practical

matters as well as their relationship to editorial staff and journalists. This will be dealt with in greater detail when the principles of journalistic work in the press, radio and television of the GDR will be discussed.

It was only natural that the content of the daily papers published by the licensed parties, trade unions and peasants' association should be aimed right from the start, at informing the people exhaustively about the causes and consequences of the war. The consciousness of most of the working class, had been dimmed by the evil spirit of fascism, and there were many misconceptions about the current situation. Some people regarded it as being hopeless. Others underestimated the destructions caused by the war and did not understand the economic facts, the devastations in agriculture and other consequences. They cherished expectations of a material and spiritual kind that stood in glaring contrast to the existing possibilities.

It was these general tasks facing all democratic forces to which, last not least, the press and radio had to devote all their efforts. Solving them required newspapers and programmes that were different from those produced during the Republic of Weimar.

In all journalistic activities due account was taken of the fact that the rulers of the German Reich had kept the German people largely ignorant of international developments, of overseas peoples' struggle for their liberation from colonial suppression and, in general, of all events abroad. Therefore, extensive international reporting played an important role. But its volume depended on the number of newspaper pages available. Like almost all other things in the immediate post-war period, paper was a scarce commodity.

Of all Germany, the territory that became the GDR, was the most heavily destroyed in the war. Printing plants, stereotype shops, paper mills, etc., as well as radio transmitters, were very scarce. As late as February 3rd, 1945 more than 1,500 American bombers completely destroyed Berlin's famous newspaper district, in the southern Friedrichstadt. On February 13th, Dresden went up in flames and its printing-plant capacity

was severely diminished. Leipzig, would-famous for its printing industry, had been reduced to rubble.

Thanks to the readiness for action and initiative of the working class it was possible to rebuild, from the ruins, the material basis for publishing newspapers and for broadcasting, although their technical quality was extremely low.

Only people who had taken part in the resistance struggle, or whose anti-fascist spirit and attitude were beyond all doubt, were allowed to work as journalists in the new democratic journalism. This principle operated in all fields, particularly in the developing administrative organs, in the educational system and the police. It meant that many people had to be recruited for journalistic work who, having some talent and showing good intentions, had to acquire their journalistic knowledge and skills on the job and could do so only there. Non-professional correspondents and writers were recruited primarily from the working class, for regular and occasional cooperation on the content of newspapers and radio programmes. These workers' and peasants' correspondents were assisted by their editorial offices in various ways. As they often criticized and needed special protection, which they were given in every case.

As early as June 13th, 1945 the 'Deutsche Volkszeitung' was published as the paper of the Communist Party of Germany (KPD). The party's programme published on June 11th, 1945 was also the programme for its press and determined its further development. In its first issue it declared: "The 'Deutsche Volkszeitung' intends to promote this unity of all sound forces of our people in the struggle to exterminate nazism, establish a firm democratic order and bring about the moral recovery of the German people. The 'Deutsche Volkszeitung' sets itself the task of supporting all constructive and progressive forces in developing the creative activities of the working people who are awakening to a new life. The 'Deutsche Volkszeitung' will present the justified demands of the working people in the towns and in the countryside. It wants to be the guardian of old German cultural values and the promoter of a progressive and

genuinely national culture which will win us again the respect of the people".

On July 7th, 1945 the central organ of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) 'Das Volk' was published as the second working-class paper. 'Das Volk' was committed to the objectives of the anti-fascist and democratic struggle and perceived as its task the creation of a political climate that would serve the unity of the working people.

During the following months the provincial leadership bodies of the KPD and the SPD began publishing their newspapers, as did the other political parties.

In wartime broadcasting had the largest influence because of its mass diffusion (especially by means of the cheap 'Volksempfanger' - popular receiving set - which could only receive nazi-stations). It was extremely significant and highly symbolic that five days after the surrender on May 13th, 1945, the first broadcasts of a new spirit were made by German anti-fascists and transmitted by a broadcasting station over German territory.

The first transmission of 'Berliner Rundfunk' lasted only one hour. But by May 19th, 1945, the transmissions ran for 19 hours per day. The news services were prepared with the help of a monitoring service that had been formed at the end of May 1945.

On June 9th, the Soviet Military Administration in Germany assumed supreme governmental power, which included the overall management for broadcasting in the Soviet Occupation Zone. By means of its information department it helped the German broadcasting professionals, the journalists as well as the technicians, to create favourable conditions for the construction of the fundamentals of a democratic German broadcasting system. Gradually, the technological and personal preconditions were created in order to extend the network of broadcasting stations and programmes.

On December 21st, 1945, the entire broadcasting system of the Soviet

Occupation Zone was subordinated to the German Central Administration of Education (such central administrations had been formed for the various field of national economy in the Soviet Occupation Zone in the course of the year). The basis of this activity was an order given by the Soviet Military Administration in Germany to take into operation further stations at the beginning of the year in order to extend the sphere of influence of the German democratic broadcasting service and to use it better for the fulfillment of local and regional tasks.

We can make the same statements about radio as we have about newspapers. The nature of the medium, however, meant that the programmes were more differentiated as regards individual groups of the population (workers, farmers, intelligentsia, women, youth, children) and music and entertainment played a larger role.

In April 1946 the Communist Party of Germany and the Social Democratic Party of Germany joined in the Socialist Unity Party of Germany on a Marxist-Leninist basis. By this means a social and political organization, a vanguard of the working class, a party, was created, which from then on was proved and tested as the leading force in society. This innovation positively influenced the big upswing of the initiative of the masses of the people in the economic and social reconstruction.

During this time it became obvious that the theory of an independent, objectively informing, bourgeois journalism was contradictory to reality in every way. The same applied to the bourgeois theory of pluralism. Press and radio, the activities of which were directed against economic, political and social change, were not independent, but firmly integrated in a solid front. They were not objective but partial as regards the restorative forces. In most cases their 'information' proved to be dis-information. 'Pluralism' consisted only of a variety of irrelevant variations of a basic conformistic position.

On October 7th, 1949, the German Democratic Republic was founded as a state of the workers and farmers. The anti-fascist-democratic change of all fields of life found its political and constitutional form in

the foundation of the GDR. Thus it constituted a fundamental change in German history.

Naturally, the foundation of the state constituted the beginning of an important period for the historical development of the mass media. On October 12, 1949, all institutions and administrative affairs for radio were handed over to the government of the GDR. Also in October we started the first investment project for the preparation and construction of a television project in Berlin-Adlershof.

When the two workers' parties, the Communist Party of Germany and the Social Democratic Party of Germany united in the Socialist Unity Party of Germany in April 1946, the daily newspaper 'Neues Deutschland' was created as its central organ and published for the first time on April 3rd, 1946. It is now the GDR's most influential paper, with the highest circulation, and plays a decisive role in the intellectual life of society as the central organ of the leading party.

More newspapers were soon published. The foundation of the Democratic Farmers' Party of Germany (DBD) in June 1948 led to the 'Bauern Echo' which was published for the first time on July 18th, 1948. The 'National-Zeitung' was published from mid-April and on June 16th, 1948, became the organ of the National Democratic Party of Germany (NDPD).

Evening papers came into being, too. There were the 'Nacht-express' in Berlin (from December 7th, 1945), to the 'Abend-post' in Weimar (from March 19th, 1946), the 'Vorwärts' (from April 9th, 1946) and the 'BZ am Abend' (from July 15th, 1949) in Berlin.

The foundation of the GDR led to socialist transformation under the leadership of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. In the historiography of the GDR this historical period comprises the years from 1949 till 1952. Later on - from 1952 until 1955 - we dealt with the construction of the fundamentals of socialism and with their further construction from 1955 to 1958. The next historical period is called the struggle for the victory of the socialist relations of production - lasting from

1958 to 1961, which was followed by the period of the all-round construction of socialism, lasting from 1961 to 1965. In the years from 1966 to 1970 we dealt with the further establishment of socialist society and after that with the shaping of the developed socialist society, from 1975 till today.

The second period starts on July 23rd, 1952, when the country's five provinces were dissolved and 14 new districts formed. The number of counties rose from 132 to 217. The State organs of the districts and counties were obliged to control the economic and cultural construction on their territories, to guarantee public order, to confirm the budget and to decide on other territorial matters. They solved their tasks on the basis of the laws and decrees enacted by the People's Chamber and the Government.

In conformity with the new districts and counties the party of the working class modified its structure of organisation. As a consequence, the structure of the press system was changed. The 14 district party organisations of the Socialist Unity Party established district papers, which appeared daily. The press organs published by the other parties also took account of the new political structures to a certain extent. Since then, additional papers, dailies and weeklies have been founded, and factory newspapers started. Otherwise the press has remained stable since 1952.

II. THE PRESS SYSTEM IN THE GDR

In the course of the GDR'S historical development the press has become an extremely efficient instrument of mass communication. It now includes the following:

		Average circulation
Dailies	39	8.316.807
Weeklies	32	8.912.687
Factory newspapers	643	c.a. 2.000.000
Journals & periodicals	519	18.524.169
Communication gazettes & central press services	152	1.570.900

(As of December 1977)

The dailies usually have 40 to 60 pages per week. Ten are published in the capital of the GDR, Berlin, while the rest are published in the district capitals for the respective districts. The journals are published weekly or quarterly and have 24 up to 400 pages.

Newspapers according to topics

Topic	Number of Titles	Average circulation No. of copies
Politics & society	101	3.576.504
Cultural policy, literature & arts	31	746.892
Education and training systems	74	5.405.213
among them		
periodicals for children & youth	14	4.318.652
health and social service system	59	722.377
sports & leisure time activities	17	2.047.721
mathematics/natural sciences	61	255.466
economics & technology of sectors of economy	99	1.661.446
agriculture, forestry & foodstuffs economy	33	894.935
fashion & homemaking	13	2.864.591
periodicals dealing with church policy	31	349.024

In 1977, there were 494 copies of newspapers per day per 1000 inhabitants and 524 copies of weeklies per 1000 inhabitants.

Licencing

A licence is required for the publication of a newspaper or journal. It is granted by the 'Press Authority with the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the GDR'.

The licence forms the basis for the planning and distribution of newsprint. With most publications, demand exceeds supply. The number of returns is extremely limited.

The management of the press

The editor, who is generally the licence-holder, determines his publication's policy. The structure of editorial departments is dependent upon the functions of the press organs and upon the experience and abilities of the journalists.

A pre-set schema does not exist. But one principle is applied throughout: the links between managers should be kept as short as possible since any intermediate management entails the risk of information being lost.

Some insight into the structure of an editorial department may be gained from a description of the editing of a district newspaper of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. These district newspapers represent a mode of operation which can be encountered in radio, television and other journalistic activities. These papers have editorial departments for economic policy, agricultural policy, internal policy, cultural policy, foreign policy, science policy, propaganda, party life, sport and

pictures. Other departments deal with correspondents' activities and with readers' letters, and with the organisation of links to the masses. The relations with the county editorial departments are maintained either by a deputy of the chief editor, who is assisted by several of them, or by the local department who is sub-ordinate to a deputy chief editor.

The editorial secretariat is entrusted with the important task of organising and coordinating the activities required for the production of a daily paper. It is either directly controlled by a deputy chief editor, or by a member of the board. Sometimes the editorial secretary acts as the head of the editorial department under the management of a deputy chief editor. In several cases the secretariat is additionally the centre for the planning of the work and the coordination of departments, as well as the commando post for work plans, actions and initiatives.

It should be noted that each publishing house has a different structure. The structure of the economy departments for instance, has to be in conformity with the predominant economic orientation of the district. In districts with universities and many colleges the department on science policy will be differently structured to those in other districts. In short, everything is dependent upon the functions of the dailies, upon the personality of the chief editor, and upon the qualification of the journalists.

Ill-intentioned observers sometimes pretend that the various editions of district newspapers have identical coverage. They tend to call this 'uniformity'. But they overlook the fact that in the case of extremely important domestic or external events the coverage of the district news will be pushed to the background, or postponed. If a district newspaper handled the news differently, it would probably be called 'provincial' by the very same observers.

It should also be noted that the district newspapers of the Socialist Unity Party have a very high circulation and in not a few cases,

are the only dailies in the households of the readers.

Since the introduction of the 5-day working week, and the ending of Sunday editions, the majority of dailies on Saturdays have an extended week-end supplement. These supplements include mostly readers' advice, entertainment, literature, popular science and other topics. Several newspapers discuss controversial subjects such as marriage, family and education.

These discussions are usually presented to the public by an editorial article, or by a contribution made by a scientist or someone who is outstanding in this field. Readers letters are printed, interviews are made, editorial inquiries are arranged and the outcome is published.

However, such discussions are not only reserved for the weekend supplements. The dailis and weeklies comply with their functions as a forum of the masses even in dealing with certain problems of economic policy, party and union life. Questions of municipal policy, or legal aspects, are also treated in this way.

In the process of the formulation of fundamental laws and regulations this type of forum is often used to collect the views and suggestions of the population. The drafts which have been prepared at the suggestion of the Socialist Unity Party by broadly composed commissions consisting of competent experts and politically representative members including experienced workers, women and others, are completely reprinted in the newspapers. The discussion is often continued over a long period.

Factory and enterprise newspapers

A special place within 'social communication' and thus within the system of the GDR press is occupied by the factory and enterprise newspapers. At present, 643 are published, mostly once a week; a smaller

number is published fortnightly. Their total circulation (calculated on each edition) reaches about 2 million copies. The average circulation is some 3,100 copies, from a range between 2,000 to 10,000 copies depending upon the number of workers and employees.

As a rule, the factory and enterprise newspapers are issued by the party executives of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany of the enterprise concerned. All workers and employees of the factory are subscribers to the newspapers.

These factory newspapers are more intemately incorporated than other publications into the process of social communication within a given enterprise, which they reflect and for which they provide information and opinion, thus exercising influence on the factory. The editor exercises a direct influence on the contents of the newspapers. The main articles are determined by the tasks of production, the social relations inside the factory and by the resulting currents, ambitions and substance of communication.

III. THE RADIO IN THE GDR

Radio is also counted as a journalistic form of mass media although, like television, it is only partly journalistic. In the GDR, for instance, radio is the biggest producer and distributor of music. In its capacity as a contractor for composers it exercises an active influence on the creation of new works of music. The same applies to literature. A large number of the dramatic plays of television, notably contemporary drama, have grown from radio dramas.

Large-audience entertainment programmes incorporating many people, who act as onlookers as well as participants, have acquired a firm place within the radio services. These entertainment programmes encompass musical performances combined with journalistic inquiries, commentaries and reflections. Other broadcasts could also be mentioned, such as advice and service programmes.

The management of sound broadcasting

The broadcasting stations of the GDR are run by the State Committee for Radio at the Council of Ministers of the GDR. Earlier, television has been under the competence of a previous committee with the same name; it is now controlled by a state committee established in the 1960s.

The State Committee for Radio is headed by a chairman, who is in charge of all four networks. Radio GDR, Berlin Radio, Voice of the GDR and Radio Berlin International. The broadcasting network 'Radio GDR' includes another 14 regional stations transmitting their own programmes at certain hours.

He is assisted by twelve members of the committee, among them his three deputies. The committee members include the managers of the broadcasting networks and the managers of the departments of radio drama and music.

The management of the stations is similar to that of the editorial

department of a daily newspaper.

The Broadcasting House in the capital of Berlin serves as the centre for production, recording and transmitting. In addition, there are, as indicated, 14 regional stations and studios. There are 19 overseas correspondents, six orchestras and two choruses.

The radio services

In 1977 the broadcasting stations and regional transmitters transmitted 64,773 hours of programmes, 10,674 hours of which were stereo services. In an average week 1,242 broadcasting hours are provided, with 204 in stereo.

The main categories are:

SPOKEN BROADCASTS	**34,114 hours**
Current politics and economic politics	24,748 hours
Sport	692 hours
News service	4,542 hours
Children and youth broadcasts	1,160 hours
Cultural policy, entertainment, plays	2,972 hours
MUSIC BROADCASTS	**30,659 hours**
Classical music	6,035 hours
Light music	5,666 hours
Dancing music	16,737 hours
Folk music	2,221 hours

The total figures include the services of Radio Berlin International, whose programmes consist almost exclusively of the spoken word. All

the other stations have a word-music-ratio of 35:65.

The programmes have four functions: orientation; education; entertainment; service.

Radio DDR I

This station has a news broadcast every 30 minutes. Its flexible schedule allows comments on topical events, including short commentaries and discussions on topical subjects. The station is oriented towards a heterogeneous public. It has the highest share of music; notably light music, dance music and folk music. It also has the most comprehensive programmes, especially over the week-ends. The result is a popular round-the-clock 24-hour programme of information and light entertainment.

Radio DDR II

This network produces 16 hours a day of spoken programmes in the category of education and 'quality' programmes. It is also the main programme for symphonic and classical music and chamber music as well as for contemporary composers.

Berliner Rundfunk

This station reflects the cultural and intellectual life of the capital. It provides wide coverage of sport, leisure activities and tourism.

It is also the main programme for youth and children. The youth

studio DT 64, the students' magazine 'bit' and similar programmes intended for 12 and 14 year-old adolescents serve this special audience.

Stimme Der DDR

This station combines information, education and entertainment. It provides a topical survey of the events in the GDR for German-language listeners in Central Europe and explains the attitude of the GDR towards important international events, trends and problems.

Regional programmes

The regional programmes are determined by the unity of the four functions already mentioned. The service function is clearly predominant, and education and entertainment are less pronounced. A large share of broadcasting is devoted to news, reports, announcements, etc., of specific places.

The holiday channel of the district transmitter of Rostock assumes a particular place within the system of broadcasting. Each year, starting on May 1st and ending in late September, a full-length programme provides information and light entertainment in a varied manner for the holiday-makers at the Baltic Sea and in northern districts of the GDR. News, reports and on-the-spot accounts are produced and transmitted without any delay. This programme, the production of which is supported by co-workers of other transmitters, has become very popular.

Almost all households of the GDR have a wireless set and half have two or even more radios available - there are altogether about 18 million radios. Every member of the society is therefore given the opportunity to participate in the process of social mass communication according to his interests and needs.

IV. TELEVISION

For a number of years GDR television was under the control of the State Committee for Radio and Television at the Council of Ministers. A general manager was in charge of television in the same way as a manager was held responsible for the various broadcasting stations (Berlin Radio, Radio GDR, etc.). Since the mid-sixties the State Committee for Television at the Council of Ministers of the GDR has managed television. The chairman runs the first and second channel. The 16 members of the committee include the three deputies for programme policy, publishing and drama. The remaining members of the committee are, as a rule, the heads of sections and departments, such as entertainment and music.

The achievements of GDR television

At present GDR television broadcasts two services every day (a third service of educational TV is being established). In 1977 the total number of broadcasting hours was 6,905 for both programmes, out of which 5,289 hours were in colour.

The weekly averages are 133 and 102 hours. The programmes categories are as following:

Political information	830 hours
Features	1.099 hours
Sport	661 hours
Education	415 hours
Drama	1.799 hours
Entertainment	1.001 hours
Children's programmes	419 hours
Youth programmes	45 hours
Advertisements	190 hours
Miscellaneous	446 hours

The programmes are produced in the TV Centre, Berlin, in district

studios at Rostock, Halle, Karl-Marx-Stadt and in the TV centres at Leipzig and Dresden.

In 1977 some 85 % of all households of the GDR had their own television set, the majority of domestic production.

The most important day-to-day political broadcast on both channels is Aktuelle Kamera (The Topical Camera) broadcast 7.30 to 8.00 pm and in several additional news transmissions. It reports daily on all important events of politics, economics and culture in the GDR and throughout the world.

Another major programme, 'Answers', enables leading executives and officials of Party and State, Ministers, deputies of popular representations and other competent personalities to answer questions (sent by letter) of the TV audience. The 30-minute live broadcast comprises, as a rule, five or six interviews on various subjects.

Other current affairs programmes are the Press Conference (once a month) which is concerned with one topic; 'Objektiv', a foreign policy magazine designed to provide fortnightly background information, critical studies, reports and accounts on science; 'Prisma', a fortnightly critical presentation of problems, persons and processes of the socialist society; 'Discoveries' interesting accounts of workers, cooperative farmers and other working people; 'Umschau' (Overview) and monthly magazine reports about the achievements of scientific and technical development; 'TV Academy', an explicit, educational programme now encompassing curriculae-bound programmes, such as language courses in Russian and English.

Dramatic Art

Some 75 TV plays and films are produced annually, both in our own studios and in cooperation with DEFA, the nationally owned enterprise

or the production of full-length feature films. The subjects encompass contemporary and historical subjects of different genres, adventure and criminal stories, dramas and adaptations of German language writers and of the classical works of world literature.

GDR television is open to the world and anxious to make its viewers acquainted with the attainments of other peoples. The exchange of programmes with foreign TV stations enables the planners to provide a varied schedule, and saves money. The stations of the friendly socialist countries make the largest contributions towards this exchange.

Last but not least it should be mentioned that the State Committee for Television employs a well-balanced Viewers' Study Group which uses proven scientific methods and provides regular and instant report and analyses on the reception of TV by the million-strong audience. This group is not the sole scientific institution of this kind in the GDR, but one whose activities are oriented exclusively towards television.

V. "ALLGEMEINER DEUTSCHER NACHRICHTENDIENST"

When in 1946 it became obvious that the young democratic press and radio were unable to get along solely with their own news, a common news agency was founded on October 5th. It operates as a society based on civil law, with the participation of various Berlin newspapers. In 1953 it proved to be advisable, primarily for juridical and economic reasons, to transform the ADN into a state-run news agency. In 1956 it incorporated the photo agency 'Zentralbild' which previously had enjoyed the same juridical status as ADN. The activity of ADN is regulated by a Decree of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers on the Statute of ADN of July 14th, 1966. Its headquarters is Berlin, and it is run by a Director-General.

There are districts editorial offices of ADN in all district capitals: Cottbus, Dresden, Erfurt, Frankfurt/Oder, Gera, Halle, Karl-Marx-Stadt, Leipzig, Magdeburg, Neubrandenburg, Potsdam, Rostock, Schwerin un Suhl. It has at its disposal 40 foreign offices with their own correspondents in Addis Ababa, Algier, Baghdad, Beirut, Belgrad, Bonn, Brussels, Budapest, Bucarest, Damascus, Dar es Salaam, Geneva, Hanoi, Havanna, Helsinki, Cairo, Copenhagen, Lagos, Lisbon, London, Luanda, Madrid, Maputo, Mexico, Moscow, New Delhi, New York (United Nations), Paris, Peking, Prague, Rome, Singapore, Sofia, Stockholm, Tokyo, Tripoli, Ulan Bator, Warsaw, Washington, Vienna. ADN foreign correspondents have been accredited to altogether 62 countries. It maintains relations with 68 foreign news and photo agencies, out of which are 30 agencies in Africa and Asia and receives cable and radio transmissions from 36 foreign agencies and the bulletins of another seven agencies. ADN-Offices in foreign countries make use of 42 of the cable transmissions and bulletins for their work. At present ADN employs altogether some 1,350 staff, out of which are 600 journalists who work in the editorial departments.

Services provided by ADN

In the GDR the following news services are transmitted daily by

means of permanent telex connections:

Basic transmissions with an average of 40,000 words per day (news from the GDR and abroad).

The subscribers to the news are 38 daily papers of the GDR with a total circulation of more than 8.3 million copies, and the radio and television of the GDR. Transmissions are effected on two telex channels.

Every day ADN circulates some 35 telephotos from inland and abroad, via permanent cable connections, or as original photos, to the daily press and to GDR television. About seven topical colour pictures are supplied to the television and to several illustrated weeklies. The photo archives of ADN, comprising some 5 million pictures from the beginning of press photography up to the present time (one of the largest of its type) serve daily some 60 customers (weeklies, publishers, etc.).

The agencies of the seven socialist countries of Europe and Prensa Latina are connected with each other round the clock in order to exchange news. ADN supplies this network with some 22,000 words per day in German language.

Some 22,000 words on an average in the German language are supplied daily from the GDR and foreign countries, including GDR commentaries, to the agencies of Reuters, UPI, APP, AP, DPA and DDP, and to the BBC.

VI. JOURNALISM IN THE SYSTEM OF MASS COMMUNICATION

The concrete political organization, its economic basis, of the respective society determines the whole system of social communication, the network of communication circuits, their contents, extent, intensity, objectives as well as their direction and their relationship to each other.

The high level of development of the mass communication in the GDR is derived from different factors and their interactions. They include the socialist ownership of the means of production, the resulting socialist relationship of production, the socialist planned economy, the political organization of the state, the steadily developing socialist democracy, the high standard of education of the population and its intensive political organization and social activity.

The democratically-shaped party, working according to the principles of democratic centralism, concentrates its activities on doing everything for the wealth of the people, for the interests of the working class and all other working people. Its present task consists in further shaping the developed socialist society.

All this exists not only on paper, but it is a living reality. One can imagine how extensive, active and extremely manifold the communication relations are within this wide-branching organism, which is constituted by the SUP, and how living, complex and extensive its communication relations to the masses are.

The political parties - as regards their respective objectives - differ from those in capitalist countries. They have a completely different opinion about the role of the masses of the people; they do not consider them as reservoir of voters. Their communication relations to the masses as a whole are more systematic, more continuous, more intensive, and more extensive.

Responses to decisions, the state of the implementation of the na-

tional economic plans, responses to hostile views and intentions thus become rapidly known. The leading organs define their attitude as regards the questions, problems, necessities, etc., which were raised; they do it within the party and publicly; and they give partly detailed and partly fundamental information from which members can deduce the answers, suggestions for solutions and ideas conveyed by them, in a scientifically generalized form.

Thus, a continuous communication takes place -both horizontal and vertical; from the bottom to the top and from the top to the bottom. This communication is elementary, purposive, and systematic, and relies on the continuous communication of its members as well as on that of the whole party with the masses of the people.

As this process takes place on all party levels, the vital functions of the party are characterised by continuous communication and discussion of wide extent and high organization.

The state with all its organs occupies a central position in the political organization of every society. In socialism, it is the political organization which involves the whole people. This link implies differentiated communication between all state organs, state institutions and factories of the nationally owned and cooperative economy with the masses in different ways. Naturally, powerful patterns of communication develop between the state organs and the other state institutions in all fields of society and in the factories of national economy. These communication processes also give expression to the different social orders. The following conclusion can be drawn: the communication patterns are widespread with ideas, suggestions, opinions and orientation travelling both in horizontal and in vertical directions, from the bottom to the top and from the top to the bottom. As regards their content, they comprise all fields of life of the citizens that are of social importance.

The high standard of mass communication in the GDR is the expression of the political activity in its democratic organs in the broadest

sense of the word, to which belongs the state. The SUP is closely linked to all communication circuits, it gets information from them and introduces information, opinion and views into them.

The system also comprises interpersonal, oral and written communication, and the combination of oral and written forms, such as meetings intended for education (political classes, classes of the Free German Youth, classes of the trade unions, etc., courses and lectures). A particular place in the communication system of the society is occupied by press, radio and television, which are - directly or indirectly - continuously linked to the other forms mentioned.

In these processes and events of communication, the communication needs of society are both expressed and satisfied.

In summary, we can state that the field of verbal, oral and written communication plays an extremely important role in the social and political relations within the society of the GDR. The objectively possible concordance of the interests of the society as a whole with the interests of the individual social classes and strata, as well as of the generations, etc., is brought to subjective accordance here. In other words: socialist consciousness is decisively formed, promoted and stabilized here.

But journalism does not only influence the contents and processes of communication; it also influences its intensity. It has this effect by implementing the platform function of socialist journalism, and by publishing the decisions and speeches as well as journalistic contributions of leading personalities.

Bourgeois scholars claim that in the bourgeois society which is called by them an 'open' one, communication - including journalism - develops in an elementary and spontaneous form. In many publications emanating from these countries it has already been demonstrated that the formation of opinions in and by the journalistic media is a class - determined process which is guided by the ruling class. In this connection

one must not forget that in the bourgeois society the non-journalistic communication circuits are very little developed. Journalism dominates, which does not only enable it to manipulate but also makes it very dangerous. It is significant, that the opinions expressed in newspapers, radio and television are characterised as public opinion, and that the contents of social communication are primarily the subject of exercising influence and hardly the source of the formation of opinions.

As all socialist media and their material and technical bases (paper and ink producers, printing ships, studios, transmitters, etc.) are nationally owned - although in different legal forms - and as advertising plays an insignificant role in the journalistic mass media, there are no reasons for an economic competition between them. But they do compete in providing the best journalistic solutions to their common and, at the same time, differentiated tasks.

Whenever the working people - the workers, engineers, scientists, cooperative farmers - consider their work and its significance in all-societal context, their discussion produces a wealth of ideas concerning scientific and technological measures, of moral attitudes and insights into economic necessities and possibilities.

And all those things are being communicated to all the people by the press and by radio and television, and so are the motivations and reasons and the arguments for them.

The working people themselves write and talk about what they are doing, why they are doing it, and how they are doing it. They act this way because they want to familiarise all working people with their ideas, experiences, successes and intentions so that all of them can learn from each other and stimulate each other in emulation.

Thus the results of many individual and collective reflections, disputes, experiments, etc., are made public in the large democratic forum which socialist journalism provides. As stimuli intended for all people they reflect the values, ways of life and the development of the profiles of many individuals and teams. As contributions to the debate carried on as part of the continuous democratic efforts to utilize all advantages offered by the socialist order they are an eloquent expression of a deep political commitment. Thus, this part of journalism is shaped by those for whom it is intended. To be able to do this, journalists must understand economic and other social developments, their

existing situation as well as their possibilities and necessities. They also need concrete knowledge about the potantials of the enterprises and the branches of the national economy, as well as about the reserves that may be tapped. It is indispensable for them to have links of trust to the trade unions and state management bodies. They must also be acquainted with competent scientists, outstanding workers, innovators and inventors.

To put it differently: they need the closes ties with the most important sphere of social life, the sphere of material production. And at the same time they must have the ability to make their partners in the conversations themselves set forth their ideas and describe their successes.

Thus, the contents of the newspapers as well as the journalistic radio and television programmes do not only express the interests of the popular masses, which alone is highly significant when compared with bourgeois journalism.

The masses of the people themselves are using the mass media to a great and still growing extent to articulate their ideas, feelings, intentions and actions. It is in this way, too, that the press freedom of the people is being implemented.

VIII. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF JOURNALISM

Three main principles underlie journalistic activities in the GDR. First, the concept of publisher-ship, with its democratic legitimation and authority. Second, the principle of editorship; i.e., the principle of individual management in connection with collective deliberation. Third, partisanship, objectivity, the adoption of a scientific approach, truthfulness, and ties with the masses.

The publisher-ship is democratically ligitimated because it is usually performed directly by democratically elected bodies of democratically established and operating organisations, primarily of the working class, the numerically strongest and most active class. They also own the publishing houses. The democratic character of socialist journalism finds its full expression in the publisher-ship. It determines the overall work of any given journalistic organ, ranging from its concept and profile via the basic character of its content as well as its strategic and tactical translation to staff matters and the material and technical resources.

The editorship principle means the full personal responsibility to the publisher of the editor for the content and shape of the press organ managed by him. He is advised by a board comprising the most experienced and ablest journalistic members of the editorial staff.

In the GDR the man or woman heading a journalistic organ or institution - as the editor or in a capacity denoted differently - in usually an elected member of the leadership body of the social organization which is either the publisher of the organ concerned or bears both the political and professional responsibility for the organ. This is not primarily a question of obtaining better information about the publisher's objectives, intentions and ways of their implementation, but mainly a question of democratic participation and decision-making about those objectives, intentions and their implementation. In accordance with the principle of democratic centralism, the editor is responsible for implementing the decisions in whose deliberation and adoption he has par-

ticipated.

The third principle of partisanship, objectivity, adoption of a scientific approach, truthfulness and ties with the masses in their dialectical relationship determine the work of the socialist journalist. They condition each other and are interdependent.

These openly proclained principles are often presented by bourgeois theoreticians in a distorted fashion. In particular they claim that partisanship and objectivity are mutually exclusive. An important process in present day world affairs proves that this claim is untenable, on the one hand, and that those who make it are themselves deeply partisan, on the other.

Other principles of socialist journalism are the adoption of a scientific approach and truthfulness. Whenever social events -i.e. economic, political, military, cultural and other events - are to be recorded, analysed, evaluated and presented in a manner adequate to reality, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany as the leading force in society is guided by the theory and the methodology of the science of historical materialism, which form a unity. This means proceeding, firstly, from the material conditions of the event; secondly, from the concrete historical situation; thirdly, from the relationship and interaction of the class forces involved; fourthly, from the laws underlying their actions, and, fifthly, from the degree of maturity of their consciousness.

IX. JOURNALISM AND LEGAL RELATIONS

Journalism in the GDR is clearly different from bourgeois journalism of other societies not only in terms of its social and economic foundations, its position within the society, its social communication, aims, functions and objects, but also in regard to its legal foundations, conditions and standards.

A variety of legal standards ranging from the Constitution to State decrees, regulate the rights and obligations of the journalistic institutions and their activities. The special foundation for the activities of journalistic institutions and their utilization by the working people and their political organizations is provided specifically by Articles 7, 10 and 27 of the Constitution of the GDR of April 6, 1968, as amended on September 27, 1974, by the 'Decree on the Edition and Production of all Periodical Press Products' of April 12, 1962, by the decision of the Council of Ministers of the GDR on the establishment of the State Committee for Television and the State Committee for Radio of September 4, 1966, by the 'Decree of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers on the Statute of ADN' of July 14, 1966.

In addition the regulations provide that all GDR press media published in the GDR, and the foreign press media imported to the GDR on the basis of appropriate agreements, will be granted equal sales conditions, as covered by the postal services of the GDR on the basis of the 'Decree of the Postal Services' of November 21, 1967.

As to the juridical description of the obligations of journalism, the socialist State can confine itself to fundamental regulations of the GDR. The State has imposed on the journalistic organs the task to act in the sense of the Constitution and in accordance with the laws of the GDR.

The legal relations between the editorial offices and the author inclusive of the resulting regulations of copyright and fees were considered in the copyright law of the GDR of September 13, 1965, which protects the intellectual property of the citizen in an exemplary manner.

X. PUBLISHING HOUSES, PRINTING SHOPS, MARKETING, STUDIOS AND BROADCASTING TECHNOLOGY

The German postal services are entrusted with the sales of all GDR-produced and imported mass media and handle sales on the basis of mutual contracts. Financial sanctions are imposed on printing shops in the event of a delayed delivery, or on the postal services for any other delay. This system guarantees reliable deliveries to the subscribers. It should be noted that more than 90 % of all mass media are suppled on a subscription basis. The rest are sold through the kiosks of the postal services.

The technical operation of the radio and television services is under the competence of corresponding institutions operated by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication Services of the GDR. This applies both to the studios, and to broadcasting engineering.

Since all institutions involved are so-called budget institutions having at their disposal their independent economic plans confirmed by the Council of Ministers of the GDR, their economic and juridical relations are settled on the basis of adequate provisions established by the government.

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